



# **The Six Lords Baltimore & Their Portraits**

*Prepared by the  
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### **The Six Lords Baltimore: Their Portraits**

The portraits of the Lords Baltimore at Riversdale were painted by Boris Luban, a Russian-American artist. Mrs. David R. Ray, whose father, George Calvert, commissioned their execution in the 1940s, gave them to the Riversdale Historical Society in 1995. Boris Luban was born in Moscow in 1881. He studied at the Royal Academy of Antwerp and the Royal Academy of Berlin. He came to the United States and was a prominent portrait painter in New York City.

### **Riversdale Portraits Copied from English Originals**

The original portraits of the six Lords Baltimore were painted in England from the 1660s to the 1750s by various painters, some unknown. They remained in the Calvert and Eden families until the 1930s. When the sixth and last Lord Baltimore died in 1771 without legitimate issue, ownership of the family portraits passed to his sister, Lady Caroline Eden. The original portraits now hang in the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore and the story of their journey to Maryland is interesting. While traveling in Europe in 1933, Dr. Hugh Hampton Young, a Baltimore surgeon and Maryland history enthusiast, learned that the six portraits were to be sold at auction by Sotheby's, London. Sir Timothy Calvert Eden, sixth Baronet of Maryland, to whom they had descended from Lady Caroline Eden, offered the portraits for sale. Although interested in the disposition of these paintings, Dr. Young did not attend the auction for he had been informed that the Walters' Gallery was going to acquire the series. He later learned that the Walters' purchase had failed and the paintings had been dispersed among several owners.

Four of the paintings had been bid by the original owner, Sir Timothy Eden; the portrait of the Fifth Lord had gone to an unidentified buyer; and the portrait of the Second Lord had been bought by Lord Duveen who in turn sold it to William Randolph Hearst. Dr. Young purchased the four portraits from Sir Timothy and offered a considerable profit to the buyer of the Fifth Lord's portrait if he would part with it. The owner turned out to be Lord Fairfax of Cameron, born Albert

Kirby Fairfax of Prince George's County, Maryland, who generously turned over the portrait so it could be reunited with the others in Maryland. The five portraits arrived in Maryland in time for the state's Tricentennial celebration. The Enoch Pratt Library purchased the missing sixth painting in 1940. It is fitting that the Riversdale portraits, a legacy of the Prince George's branch of the Calvert family, were dedicated during the Tricentennial celebration of Prince George's County.

### **George Calvert (1579-1632)**

*First Lord Baltimore, 1625-1632*

George Calvert, the founder of Maryland, was born at Kiplin in North Yorkshire. Perhaps the ablest of all the Calverts, he was the first to be elevated to the nobility. He was the son of a wealthy landowner, attended Oxford and was elected to Parliament as an ardent royalist. He became a friend of King James I and served from 1619 to 1625 as the King's Secretary of State. When the Parliament rejected his proposed alliance with Catholic Spain, however, Calvert became a Catholic himself and resigned from the government. Perhaps he was returning to an earlier faith. King James was sympathetic and raised him to the peerage as Lord Baltimore. This was a hereditary position that allowed him to collect revenues from estates in central Ireland. Calvert was long interested in American colonization. He was the major investor in Avalon, a settlement in Newfoundland which lasted from 1621 to 1628, but which was too cold to prosper. Calvert visited Virginia and with King Charles I's permission, drew up a charter granting himself broad

Cecil's name was substituted in the document, but the grant was his. The name of Maryland ("Terra Mariae") appears for the first time in this document. Calvert chose the name to honor Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I. George Calvert's portrait was done by Daniel Mytens the elder, court painter to both James I and Charles I.

### **Cecil Calvert (1605-1675)**

*Second Lord Baltimore, 1632-1674*

Cecil (or Cecilius) Calvert recruited the first settlers and outfitted the two ships, the *Ark* and the *Dove*, that arrived in Maryland in 1634. During his 42-year proprietorship Cecil Calvert remained in England, supplying the colony, approving all its laws, and fighting off rival claimants. He sent his younger brother Leonard to serve as the colony's first governor. The proprietor maintained a precarious balance through the English Civil War. Cecil's tenure was marked by a religious liberality unusual in an age of intolerance. The Maryland Act Concerning Religion, approved in 1649, established tolerance for all Christian sects of the colony. Cecil also, however, encouraged the establishment of slavery in Maryland, specifically legalized in 1664. The Second Lord is shown in the picture with his grandson and namesake, Cecil. The boy was born in Maryland, the son of Governor Charles Calvert who became the Third Lord. The painting was done in 1669-1670 when Charles, the young Cecil and the black attendant in the background made a visit to England. The original portrait of the Second Lord Baltimore was by Gerard Soest, court painter to Charles II. It is generally considered the finest painting of the series.

### **Charles Calvert (1637-1715)**

*Third Lord Baltimore, 1675-1715*

Charles Calvert came to Maryland when he was 24 years old and was governor from 1661 to 1675. When his father died, he returned to England to receive his title, but immediately came back to Maryland to serve as the first resident proprietor.

The colony's population was growing rapidly, however, and opposition to Charles' personal rule mounted. The General Assembly asserted itself, disfranchised Catholics, moved the capital from St. Mary's to Annapolis and defied Charles. Besieged by economic, religious, and territorial problems, he lost his power to govern when William and Mary ascended the throne. The English sovereigns allowed Charles to retain his title and revenues from Maryland, but in 1692 they dispatched the first in a series of royal governors. Charles spent the rest of his life negotiating vainly to regain his proprietary rights.

The original portrait of the Third Lord Baltimore was executed by Sir Godfrey Kneller, court painter to five English sovereigns.

**Benedict Calvert (1679-1715)**

*Fourth Lord Baltimore, 1715*

Benedict Leonard Calvert served as Lord for only two months after his father's death, when he himself died at age 36. His older brother Cecil, pictured in the painting of the Second Lord Baltimore, had died some years before. Seeking to regain his family's proprietary rights, Benedict Leonard renounced Catholicism in 1713 and joined the Church of England. His father, angered by his son's desertion of the faith, broke off relations, but the Crown saw that he was well provided for. When his father died, Benedict Leonard immediately petitioned King George I for restitution of political control of Maryland, but he died before his plea could be acted upon. Within the year, however, the King returned full proprietary powers to Calvert's young son, Charles. Through marriage to Lady Charlotte Lee, granddaughter of King Charles II and the Duchess of Cleveland, Benedict Leonard brought a strain of royal blood to the Calvert line. The marriage, however, ended in divorce. The artist and date of the Fourth Lord's portrait are unknown.

**Charles Calvert (1699-1751)**

*Fifth Lord Baltimore, 1715-1751*

Charles, the Fifth Lord Baltimore, was only eighteen years old when he inherited his title with all its proprietary rights. King George I appointed a guardian for him and brought him into the court circle. Charles became a Fellow of the Royal Society, was twice a member of Parliament, was appointed gentleman of the bedchamber to the Prince of Wales, and a Lord of the Admiralty. The young lord first sent his older cousin, named Charles, to Maryland as his governor, but later replaced him with his own younger brother Benedict Leonard. In 1732 the Fifth Lord himself came to Maryland, the first of the proprietors in 50 years to visit. He came to settle a dispute with William Penn's sons over the northern boundaries of the colony. He lost and the territory of Maryland was reduced by several thousand square miles. Charles

Calvert and his able governors worked closely with the General Assembly of Maryland to provide strong and efficient government. As the colony prospered, vast profits flowed into the proprietary coffers. The portrait of Charles, Fifth Lord Baltimore, is attributed to Allan Ramsay, court painter to George III. The Calverts of Riversdale descend from the Fifth Lord Baltimore. Prior to his marriage in 1730, Charles Calvert had an illegitimate son. The boy, named Benedict after his grandfather, was born about 1724. Benedict's mother is unknown. Following the Fifth Lord's marriage and the birth of a legitimate heir, Benedict was sent to Annapolis to be placed in the care of Dr. George Steuart. The boy came to Maryland in the 1730s as "Benedict Swingate," probably the name he had lived under in England, but by the 1740s he had dropped the Swingate surname and had become Benedict Calvert. Growing up in Annapolis, Benedict met his cousin Elizabeth, only surviving child of Governor Charles Calvert and an heiress to substantial property from both her parents. Benedict and Elizabeth Calvert were married in 1748 with Lord Baltimore's blessing, and their fortunes and family flourished. Their third son, George Calvert, married Rosalie Stier and lived at Riversdale.

### **Frederick Calvert (1731-1771)**

*Sixth Lord Baltimore, 1751-1771*

Frederick Calvert, named for his father's friend, Frederick, the Prince of Wales, showed little interest in Maryland except as a source of revenue. He never visited the colony and left governance to his agents. He traveled widely through Europe. Frederick produced no legitimate heirs and the title of Lord Baltimore expired. At his death the last Lord Baltimore bequeathed his colonial holdings to one of his illegitimate children, Henry Harford. Harford was briefly recognized as proprietor, but during the American Revolution the Maryland General Assembly confiscated Harford's holdings. After the Revolution the Maryland Assembly appropriated \$50,000 to extinguish all claims. Frederick's portrait was by the German painter Johann Ludwig Tietz.